

Amendments to the Claims:

DO NOT ENTER
H. C. 11/20/2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An agricultural or horticultural granular composition comprising water-dispersible granules having a low foamability, ~~characterized in that~~ high disintegrability in water, a high dispersibility in water, a high suspension stability or suspendability in water, and being capable of producing an aqueous dilute dispersion having a low foamability when said aqueous dilute dispersion is prepared by mixing said water-dispersible granules with water, wherein the composition comprises the water-dispersible granules each made of a mixture consisting essentially of the following components:

(a) at least one of a solid or liquid, agrochemically active ingredient as an active ingredient,

(b) at least one of a surfactant selected from a sulfonate-type surfactant, a sulfate-type surfactant and a phosphate-type surfactant,

(c) at least one of a metal salt of a fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms, as an antifoaming agent in an amount thereof effective to ensure that the aqueous dilute dispersion as prepared by mixing said water-dispersible granules with water results in little or no foaming upon stirring of said aqueous dilute dispersion, and

(d) at least one water-insoluble solid carrier,
and wherein said water-dispersible granules each do not contain an anionic surfactant made of a polycarboxylate, including a copolymer of maleic anhydride and diisobutylene or a salt thereof, and each do not contain a water-soluble solid carrier.

2. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt (c) of a fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms as the antifoaming agent is a water-soluble alkali metal salt of a (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acid or comprises a mixture of at least two of the water-soluble alkali metal salts of the (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acids.

3. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the water-soluble alkali metal salt of the (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acid is one of a sodium salt or potassium salt of the fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms or comprises a mixture of at least two of the (C₆ – C₂₈) fatty acid sodium or potassium salt.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the water soluble alkali metal salt (c) of the fatty acid of 6 to 28 carbon atoms as the antifoaming agent comprises a mixture of sodium salts of mixed fatty acids consisting of different fatty acids of 6 to 28 carbon atoms, which mixture of the sodium salts namely means a soap.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein at least one of or a mixture of at least two of the surfactant (b) comprises a sulfonate-type surfactant.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the agrochemically active ingredient (a) is contained in a proportion of 0.1 to 85% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the surfactant (b) is contained in a proportion of 0.5 to 30% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid metal salt (c) as the antifoaming agent is contained in a proportion of 0.05 to 10% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises the water insoluble solid carrier in a proportion of 5 to 95% based on the weight of the granules in the composition.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt of the fatty acid (c) to be used as the anti-foaming agent is such a metal salt of the (C₆-C₂₈) fatty acid which has a solubility in water of 100 ppm or less at 20 degree C, or the metal salt (c) of the fatty acid to be used as the anti-foaming agent comprises a mixture of at least two of such metal salts of the fatty acids which metal salts have a solubility in water of 100 ppm or less at 20 degree C.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the metal salt (c) of the fatty acid which is to be used as the antifoaming agent and which has a solubility in water of 100 ppm or less at 20 degree C comprises at least one of lithium salt, barium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, and zinc salt of the (C₆-C₂₈) fatty acid or comprises a mixture of at least two of said lithium salt, barium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, and zinc salt of said fatty acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible granules are each made of a mixture which contains as the essential components thereof an agrochemically active ingredient, at least one of the sulfate-type surfactant and the sulfonate-type surfactant, calcium or magnesium or barium stearate which is capable of acting as the antifoaming agent, and at least one of water-insoluble solid carriers which are chosen from diatomaceous earth, amorphous silica, and clay.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible granules are each made of a mixture which contains as the essential components thereof an agrochemically active ingredient, at least one of the sulfate-type surfactant and the sulfonate-type surfactant, at least one of sodium laurate, sodium myristate, sodium palmitate, sodium stearate, sodium oleate, sodium elaidate, sodium brassidate, potassium caprate, potassium laurate, potassium myristate, potassium palmitate, potassium stearate, and potassium oleate which are each soluble in water and are each capable of acting as the antifoaming agent, and at least one of water-insoluble carriers which are chosen from diatomaceous earth, amorphous silica, and clay.